

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

FOR GREATER ALEXANDRIA

E. Gorman Ridgely, of Downham and Ridgely Views Plans

Says he Thinks That Co-Operation, Appearances and Recreation are Essential Factors

In discussing the proposed improvements for Alexandria with the Gazette's reporter, E. Gorman Ridgely, of the firm of Downham & Ridgely finds it hard to draw the line between the most important and the least important of the proposed improvements because they are all important and none is to be rightly set aside for another. He says that in his opinion:

"First of all in the line of important improvements will be to get the citizens to work with a better spirit of cooperation and in more perfect unison for the civic betterment of the city. We can never accomplish the things we should accomplish with out the whole hearted cooperation of the entire body of the people. No thing can ever be accomplished with one pulling one way and another in another direction. We must pull together for a Greater Alexandria if we wish to gain ground."

"When the new form of government goes into effect we must all stand behind our representatives and give the new government our undivided support. It has been said that, 'a house divided against itself cannot stand,' and our 'house' of the new government must stand, therefore our support of it must be undivided."

"Possibly our proposed new school building will give to the city the quickest returns. It will better the conditions in more homes and quicker than any of the other proposed improvements, our children must be housed in comfortable quarters and at present, as we all know, the housing facilities of our schools are inadequate."

"The proposed improvements of the grounds around the High School and around Washington School are far more important than many of our citizens suppose. It is to be remembered that a city is known by its schools. Well kept schools and well kept school grounds is one of the best of advertisements for a city. And as also is known if the outside is allowed to form his opinion of our city from the way its school grounds are kept at the present time his opinion would not flatter us in the least."

"Then the public recreation park is another thing that would be a great asset to our city; a place where the grown up could go to rest and to play after a hard day at his place of business. Play is an essential in the life of a man as it is in the bringing up of a child. Besides this, a park would be a place where man could meet man—not as in business life—and discuss the present and the past and the future of the city in a way business conventionalities could never allow."

"Yes if we are ever to realize a Greater Alexandria, I think we must first realize that without co-operation we can do nothing. The quicker this self-evident truth dawns upon us, the quicker a Greater Alexandria will be within our grasp."

The regular meeting of the Baraca Bible Class will be held tomorrow morning in the First Baptist Church. It is hoped that all members who may find it possible will be present. The annual banquet has been postponed from January 17 until January 24. It will be held in the Westminster building and all men who are members of the class, whether or not they are now in regular attendance, will be invited.

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The basketball team of the High School will play the team of Manassas High School in the Armory Hall tonight at 8 o'clock. Manassas made a splendid record for herself this season and the local boys who have not lost a game so far, are anticipating a big battle.

Monday night, the Triangle Sport Club Midgits, will journey to Washington, D. C., to meet the Fast Tiger Midgits at 7:30 p. m. These men are requested to meet Coach L. E. Roadhouse at the corner of King and Columbus streets, Allen, Ford, Spencer, Blunt, Kelly, Leaf and Cowie for the trip.

Not in a long time has Florence Rotary Club enjoyed itself as much as it did yesterday afternoon at the regular Thursday luncheon when Frank McCravy entertained its membership in song and story. Mr. McCravy has every right to be a headliner in leading chautauqua work, but he was elected to answer a higher call, and is doing a wonderful work as a song evangelist and personal worker in his Master's vineyard. In Florence assisting Dr. F. H. Martin in the conduct of a series of revival meetings at the First Baptist Church it was Rotary's good fortune to have Mr. McCravy as its guest yesterday afternoon. He is an impersonator of rare ability and not only tells his vast fund of genuinely humorous stories with a skill that delights and charms. For nearly an hour he kept his audience shaking with laughter and then as a climax took the twenty-one business men through a stunt that fairly took their breath away. Mr. McCravy is not a Rotarian himself as his work takes him from place to place, but he breathes its spirit and if he ever stows long enough in any town or city where Rotary exists or a field for its activities is found, International Rotary will win a rich addition. It is sincerely hoped that Frank McCravy will come this way often and stay long. He is good for the mind and for the heart and for the soul.

(Florence Daily Times.)

THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 1922

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FRANK E. MCCRAVY of Laurens, S. C.

(The singing Evangelist at Del Ray Baptist Church)

Mr. McCravy has charge of the music in the revival meeting at the Del Ray Baptist Church in which the pastor, Rev. Robt. A. McKay is doing the preaching. A children's chorus of 75 voices and a senior chorus of 50 voices have been organized under the direction of Mr. McCravy and sing with a charm and skill that delights everybody. Mr. McCravy has demonstrated that he knows how to lead people to do just what he wishes them to do. Last night he called on little girls to stand by him and sing and to the surprise of everyone, not once did they refuse. Solos, duets, choruses, and congregations respond under his suggestions as if under the spell of a magician. He possesses a lyric baritone voice of unusual sweetness and oftentimes his hearers are melted with some tender gospel song. He is a graduate of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago and

a student of such noted voice teachers as Webster and Manz of the Bel Canto school of singing.

The leading newspaper of South Carolina, The Columbia State says: Mr. McCravy is a master of his profession, being a master of assemblies, and of crowd psychology, as well as an expert choir leader and great soloist. When he leads, all sing from the minister to the least child in the house.

The Wilmington Star of Wilmington, N. C. says: Mr. McCravy with a half tear in his voice, which is of wonderful sweet and sympathetic quality, sings with fine appreciation of both words and music. His enunciation, perfect breath control, and intelligent phrasing, combine to make his singing a delight.

The people of Del Ray and vicinity should avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing this noted singer and leader.

Richmond—Investigation of the State Highway Department is provided in a joint resolution introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator Harry Flood Byrd, of Winchester. The measure further provides, the House concurring, for the appointment of a committee consisting of two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of that body, and three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker. Duties of this committee will be to

make an investigation of the "acts and doings" of the State Highway Commission and the State Highway Commissioner, and report, as soon as its task is finished, to the General Assembly.

In every single hour of the twenty-four, 1,400,000 letters are mailed; in every day of the 365 days 33,000,000 letters are sent.

WITH THE WISHING FAIRY by CORINNE

Stella Tells Her Brownies How Ink Is Made.

THE Wishing Fairy had told her four Brownies that Septa (which is used by Humans to make Ink) comes from the Octopus or Devil Fish. She had explained how even this dreadful creature of the ocean sometimes needs protection in spite of its deadly clinging arms, and how when this is the case it pours forth a black fluid which colors the surrounding water. The water then becomes so dark that it is impossible to see the hiding Octopus.

"Perhaps," ventured Pimble, thoughtfully, "that is what gave Humans the idea of pouring out black smoke from their battleships—smoke screens they call them. It's the same idea, isn't it?"

Stella nodded; for it really is, and she could not help smiling at her clever little Brownie.

"Snookums laughed and playfully pounced Pimble, as he said, 'I wish I could think as quickly as you do, old fellow!'"

"I wish," he cried, "that I could think as quickly as you do, old fellow!'"

Pimble looked awfully pleased, as he dearly loves a word of praise, which is not odd, for every one does.

If we always find fault with others it discourages them, and instead of giving and doing their best, which they think is not appreciated or even noticed, they think, "What is the use?" and make no effort or at least only a half hearted effort; but, on the other hand a word of praise every now and then makes any one want to live up to it—makes one try—and when one tries one succeeds! So you see how important a bit of praise is! We all give out to others what they expect of us, whether it be good or bad.

Well, let's go back to Stella, the Brownies, Devil Fish and Ink.

Stella was saying that as Devil Fish are ever so scarce the Septa fluid of theirs also is; consequently Humans cannot depend on this means alone of making ink, but have to invent some other.

"And what did they invent, Stella?" asked Kinkajou; "tell us all about it."

"Have you ever noticed the leaves of an oak tree when little, hard, round knobs have formed on them?"

The Brownies all nodded, for they had often wondered what these strange little growths were, which have two names, "Oak Apples" and "Gall Nuts," and which are in no way either fruit or acorns.

"There is a little insect called the 'Gall Fly' that is the cause of these knobs," the Fairy continued. Mrs. Gall Fly pierces a hole in the oak leaf and lays an egg in it.

"The juices of the bruised leaf ooze up around the egg and by degrees form the Oak Apple or Gall Nut (you can call it which you like) around the baby fly, who when fully grown and ready to face the world pierces a hole in the 'apple' and flies away. It has been feeding all this time on the inside pulp of the apple."

"These Oak Apples are collected by Humans, pounded to a fine powder and boiled in water. This water becomes yellow, and is then mixed with more water in which some green Copperas has been dissolved."

"What is Copperas?" asked the ever curious Pimble.

Stella smiled as she answered the little Brownie. "I don't know if I can make you quite understand, but I'll try. Copperas is obtained by allowing iron to stand in sulphuric acid. Of course, every one knows that sulphuric acid is a terrifically explosive liquid, and has to be handled more than carefully. It is so strong that it absolutely melts iron. Well, when this Copperas water is mixed with the yellow liquid in which the Oak Apple powder has been boiled what is the result?"

"Can't imagine! What?"

"A deep black fluid!" Stella answered. "And this fluid, the process of which has been discovered by Humans, is used by them to write with, and is called Ink. That is how it is made."

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Truth Stranger Than Fiction

(A True Christmas Story)

Agreeable to your request, and my promise I am sending you a brief synopsis of the wonderful work in sculpture design, as the honor to one of the sculptors of Maryland whose work is of such lustre to the brilliant career to which he belonged. The work will be a life-sized base relief in statuary marble and so arranged as to form a memorial tablet mounted upon an inscribed pedestal, recessed or niched and placed in a vestibule nave or rotunda. It will represent a determined youth scaling parapets, ramparts and obstructions in a victorious move forward in the battle line.

The life story of this young hero is pathetic! In life and death he was unknown, but true to the mark of his high resolve was this splendid fighting youthful marine. When the tocsin of our nation resounded and aroused true manhood to arms, he eagerly took his place in ranks and sailed away over seas with his command, an eighteen year old boy, and fought in every battle in the World War from the time America entered the conflict and died in action before attaining man's estate and on the day the Armistice was signed. Alas, what a melancholy truth to relate! His history is this:

"One cold Christmas night about twenty years ago he was under a gas light on the side walk on one of the avenues of Baltimore, a deserted infant. He was conveyed by the patrolman who found him comfortable quarters where he was provided for until sent to Mount St. Mary's Industrial School, near Catonsville, Md., and there he grew in knowledge and usefulness, yet no one ever knew his name and from his boyhood to his last battlefield no one ever found out who he was.

One day, as war clouds gathered over our country, a squad of Marines with a recruiting officer motored out to St. Mary's and secured permission to place machine guns on the campus and train the boys in the art of Arms. It was there and then that this young hero came before the public gaze and upon the field of national usefulness to prove his patriotic devotion. He wanted to be a Marine and nothing could hold him back, and after a short training with the guns on the campus, he enlisted in the service, with a short time at a training camp and thence to the scenes of war. Because he had no name the recruiting officer signed him up as "Smith" and he soon grew in favor with his command because of his manly, noble nature and he was affectionately known as "Smitty."

During the first Christmas in France the boys all received parcels from home—all with the exception of "Smitty"—he had no home and received no present. Some kind soul however, had sent over a big box with the instructions and inscription, "For an Unknown Soldier" and Smitty got the box. There was no one who had a better claim.

I have said that he was killed on the morning of the day of the Armistice, he fell in the little town of Reaumont in the Meuse-Argonne battle. Faithful to comrades and country—a loyal, royal American beloved by every man in the command—the pride of the regiment, and when the great throng gathered at Arlington.

The Surinam toad carries its eggs and young on its back in small, round depressions in the skin.

All the black and white plumes come from the male ostrich, the grey from the female.

While she is hatching her eggs the female crow is fed by the male.

Zoologists agree that the bat is the most sensitive of animals.

The economic loss caused by rats is estimated at \$180,000,000 annually.

around that impressive, solemn memorial amphitheatre on last November to bury the "unknown dead" who can affirm it was not "Smitty" who received the splendid benedictions of a grateful people or who would not wish that he was the one they happened to choose for all the honors heaped on "The Nation's Unknown Dead" for his deeds attest his devotion and his beloved country should enroll "The Unknown Boy Smitty" high up on the scroll of glory and in letters of gold—and somehow I feel that perhaps, his last words were:

"Farewell dear America! Clime of the sun caressed, My dear homeland that I love most, Gladly now I go to give thee life's best, and were it brighter, richer or more blest, Still would I give it thee, nor count the cost."

So one more life and light passed out on the blood drenched land of France in order that we may now take heart and hope and look up and listen to a voice crying out over the wide, wide world, these words these lines:

Oh men and brothers! let God's voice be heard,
War fails! try Peace! put up the useless sword,
Listen to the moans from far off homes,
Who wait to hear the step that never comes.

Very truly yours,
HERBERT BARBEE

From Luray Page and Courier.

OFFICIAL Board of Aldermen

At a regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen Tuesday, January 10, 1922, there were present:

Messrs. F. F. Marbury, President, Summers, Anderson, Rammel, Wilkins, Robinson.

Bill for \$4,500 for fire hose, 3000 feet ordered paid, ayes 8. Noes 0.

Ordinance to define ardent spirits and to prohibit sale, transportation and keeping for sale ardent spirits, referred to committee on General Laws.

Ordinance fixing salary Civil and Police Justice and Baliff passed, ayes 6, Noes 0.

Mr. Wilkins moved, Mr. Rammel seconds that Mr. R. F. Green be elected successor to the late John T. Harrison from the 3rd ward, ayes 6, Noes 0.

Mr. Rammel moved that J. S. Oliver be extended the privilege of floor to talk of the Virginia Historical Association.

Mr. R. F. Green sworn in as member of the Board of Aldermen.

Invitation from Common Council by Mr. Desmond to go into joint session for election of Fire Chief, School Trustee 1st ward and Police Commissioner received and accepted.

Judge Snow was extended the privilege of the floor in regard to an or

derance fixing salary of Justice and Baliff.

Action occurred in, an act to regulate and fix the price of gas referred to committee on light.

Request to erect an Oriel window on 3rd floor of building King and Washington street on Washington street side by E. L. Allen.

Communication from Trade Council in regard to school.

Resolution that \$960 or as much thereof as necessary be appropriated to construct sewer on Queen Street southward on Fairfax street.

Requests to erect building on 119 South Henry street from G. R. Smith.

Communication from the General Realty Corporation in regards to streets in Rosemont, referred to street and finance committee.

An ordinance to repeal an ordinance entitled "an ordinance authorizing the finance committee to issue to the commissioners of the sinking fund the obligation of the city in the form of coupon bonds of the issue of 1908, purchased with the receipts of the sinking fund, and surrendered to the city was referred to the finance committee and the sinking fund."

Bill of Graham and Ogden \$1085.10 est premium on Workmen's Compensation policy was referred to the committee on finance.

Report from health department by Dr. Foulks received.

F. F. MARBURY, president.

Geo. W. Bontz, Clerk.

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